

## A. CASH ASSISTANCE

**Purpose:** This section contains cash assistance need and payment standards, eligibility standards based on income, and standards for ongoing additional requirements.

Effective September 1, 1998

### **WAC 388-478-0005 Cash assistance need and payment standards and grant maximum.**

1. Need standards for cash assistance programs represent the amount of income required by individuals and families to maintain a minimum and adequate standard of living. Need standards are based on assistance unit size and include basic requirements for food, clothing, shelter, energy costs, transportation, household maintenance and operations, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals.
2. Payment standards for assistance units in medical institutions and other facilities are based on the need for clothing, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals (see [WAC 388-478-0040](#) and [388-478-0045](#)).
3. Need and payment standards for persons and families who do not reside in medical institutions and other facilities are based on their obligation to pay for shelter.
  - a. Eligibility and benefit levels for persons and families who meet the requirements in WAC [388-478-0010](#) are determined using standards for assistance units with an obligation to pay shelter costs.
  - b. Eligibility and benefit levels for all other persons and families are determined using standards for assistance units who have shelter provided at no cost.
  - c. For recent arrivals to Washington state who apply for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), see WAC [388-478-0025](#).
4. The monthly grant for an assistance unit containing eight or more persons cannot exceed the grant maximum of one thousand seventy-five dollars.

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 -Initial Distribution

## CLARIFYING INFORMATION

DSHS is required by state law [RCW 74.04.770] to establish, on an annual basis, standards of need for cash assistance programs. These standards are based on studies

of actual living costs for basic requirements. They may vary by program and family size. Separate standards may be established for assistance units with shelter provided at no cost.

Payment standards are based on assistance unit size and are used to determine eligibility and benefit levels for cash assistance.

The percentage difference between the need and payment standard for an assistance unit is called the rateable reduction. For assistance units of eight or more, the grant payment cannot exceed a maximum of \$1,075.

Effective September 1, 1999

**WAC 388-478-0010 Households with obligations to pay shelter costs.**

The monthly need and payment standards for cash assistance are based on a determination of assistance unit size and whether the assistance unit has an obligation to pay shelter costs.

Eligibility and benefit level is determined using standards for assistance unit with obligations to pay shelter costs. An assistance unit has an obligation to pay shelter costs if one of the members:

1. Owns, purchases or rents their place of residence, even if costs are limited to property taxes, fire insurance, sewer, water, or garbage;
2. Resides in a lower income housing project which is funded under the United States Housing Act of 1937 or Section 236 of the National Housing Act, if the household either pays rent or makes a utility payment instead of a rental payment; or
3. Is homeless. Homeless households include persons or families who:
  - a. Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or
  - b. Reside in a public or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; or
  - c. Live in temporary lodging provided through a public or privately funded emergency shelter program.

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [99-16-024](#), effective 9/1/99 -[Rev. 32](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution

**CLARIFYING INFORMATION**

In August, 1990, a the Thurston County Superior Court entered an order in *Washington Coalition for the Homeless v. Thompson* which held that standards for assistance units with shelter provided at no cost could not be applied to persons and families who are "without assured free shelter." The department's rule defining persons and families whose eligibility and payment levels must be based on standards for assistance units with obligations to pay shelter costs complies with the court order.

Effective December 1, 2002

**WAC 388-478-0015 Need standards for cash assistance.**

The need standards for cash assistance units are:

1. For assistance units with obligation to pay shelter costs:

Assistance Unit Size	Need Standard	Assistance Unit Size	Need Standard
1	\$ 944	6	\$2,271
2	1,194	7	2,624
3	1,474	8	2,905
4	1,740	9	3, 185
5	2,005	10 or more	3,465

2. For assistance units with shelter provided at no cost:

Assistance Unit Size	Need Standard	Assistance Unit Size	Need Standard
1	\$ 492	6	\$1,184
2	623	7	1,369
3	769	8	1,515
4	907	9	1,661
5	1,046	10 or more	1,807

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR 02-23-029, effective 12/1/02 [Rev. 240](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [01-11-108](#) effective 7/1/01 [Rev. 145](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [99-04-056](#), effective 3/1/99 [Rev. 10](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 Initial Distribution

Effective September 1, 1998

**WAC 388-478-0020 Payment standards for TANF, SFA, GA-S, GA-H and RCA.**

1. The payment standards for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), state family assistance (SFA), general assistance for pregnant women (GA-S), general assistance for children (GA-H) and refugee cash assistance (RCA) assistance units with obligations to pay shelter costs are:

Assistance Unit Size	Payment Standard	Assistance Unit Size	Payment Standard
1	\$349	6	\$ 841
2	440	7	971
3	546	8	1,075
4	642	9	1,180
5	740	10 or more	1,283

2. The payment standards for TANF, SFA, GA-S, GA-H and RCA assistance units with shelter provided at no cost are:

Assistance Unit Size	Payment Standard	Assistance Unit Size	Payment Standard
1	\$212	6	\$ 511
2	268	7	591
3	332	8	654
4	391	9	718
5	451	10 or more	780

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution

Effective September 1, 1998

**WAC 388-478-0030 Payment standards for GA-U and ADATSA.**

1. The payment standards for general assistance - unemployable (GA-U) and alcohol and drug addiction treatment and support act (ADATSA) program assistance units

with obligations to pay shelter costs are:

Assistance Unit Size	Payment Standard
1	\$339
2	428

2. The payment standards for GA-U and ADATSA assistance units with shelter provided at no cost are:

Assistance Unit Size	Payment Standard
1	\$ 206
2	261

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution

Effective September 1, 1998

### **WAC 388-478-0035 Maximum earned income limits for TANF and SFA.**

To be eligible for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) or state family assistance (SFA), a family's gross earned income must be below the following levels:

Number of Family Members	Maximum Earned Income Level	Number of Family Members	Maximum Earned Income Level
1	\$ 698	6	\$1,682
2	880	7	1,942
3	1,092	8	2,150
4	1,284	9	2,360
5	1,480	10 or more	2,566

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 -Initial Distribution

## **CLARIFYING INFORMATION**

To determine a family's gross earned income see Income - Maximum Earned Income Levels.

Effective September 1, 1998

**WAC 388-478-0040 Payment standard for persons in medical institutions.**

1. **"Medical institutions"** include skilled nursing homes, public nursing homes, general hospitals, tuberculosis hospitals, intermediate care facilities, and psychiatric hospitals approved by the joint commission on accreditation of hospitals (JCAH).
2. The monthly payment standard for eligible persons in medical institutions is forty-one dollars and sixty-two cents. The payment covers the person's need for clothing, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals (CPI).

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution

Effective September 1, 1998

**WAC 388-478-0045 Payment standard for persons in certain group living facilities.**

1. A monthly grant payment of thirty-eight dollars and eighty-four cents will be made to eligible persons in the following facilities:
  - a. Congregate care facilities (CCF);
  - b. Adult residential rehabilitation centers/adult residential treatment facilities (AARC/ARTF); and
  - c. Division of developmental disabilities (DDD) group home facilities.
2. The payment covers the person's need for clothing, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals (CPI).

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution

**CLARIFYING INFORMATION**

The payment standard for TANF, SFA, GA-S, GA-H, and RCA recipients who are in medical institutions or other facilities for more than 90 days is the appropriate CPI amount. See Living with a Relative or Guardian.

Effective September 1, 2000

**WAC 388-478-0050 Payment standards for ongoing additional requirements.**

An "ongoing additional requirement" is a continuing need that you have for which you require additional financial benefits in order to continue living independently. The "payment standard" for ongoing additional requirement benefits is the amount of money needed to pay for these items or services. We use the following payment standards for ongoing additional requirements approved under [WAC 388-473-0020](#) through 388-473-0060:

1. Restaurant meals: \$187.09 per month (or \$6.04 per day with the payment rounded down to the nearest dollar amount);
2. Laundry: \$11.13 per month;
3. Service animal food: \$33.66 per month;
4. Home delivered meals: The amount charged by the agency providing the meals;
5. Telephone: The local flat rate for the area; or the discounted amount established under the Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP) rate, whichever is less.

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR [00-15-052](#), effective 9/1/00 [Rev. 100](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution

Effective February 23, 2003

**WAC 388-478-0055 How much do I get from my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and state supplemental payments (SSP)?**

1. SSI is a federal cash assistance program for needy individuals and couples who meet federal disability guidelines as aged, blind or disabled. SSP is a payment from the state for certain SSI eligible people (see [WAC 388-474-0012](#))

If you are eligible for SSI, you may receive a federal cash payment from the federal Social Security Administration, as well as a SSP cash payment from the state.

If you were converted from state assistance to the federal SSI program in January 1974 because you were aged, blind, or disabled, the department calls you a grandfathered client. Social Security calls you a mandatory income level (MIL) client.

To be a grandfathered (MIL) client, you must have remained continuously eligible for SSI from January 1974.

A change in living situation, cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or federal payment level (FPL) can affect a grandfathered (MIL) client. A grandfathered (MIL) client gets a federal SSI payment and a SSP payment, which totals the higher of one of the following:

- a. The state assistance standard set in December 1973, unless you lived in a medical institution at the time of conversion, plus the federal cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) since then; or
  - b. The current payment standard.
2. The federal, state and combined payment level for an eligible individual and couple are:
- a. If you are living alone.

LIVING ALONE - In own household or alternate care, except nursing homes or medical institutions	Federal Payment Level	State Supplement Benefit Level	Combined Federal / State Payment Level
Individual	\$552.00	\$0.00	\$552.00
Individual with One Essential Person	829.00	\$0.00	829.00
Individual with an ineligible spouse	\$552.00	\$100.00	\$652.00
Couple	\$829.00	\$0.00	\$829.00
Couple with one essential person	\$829.00	\$0.00	\$829.00

- b. If you are in shared living.

SHARED LIVING - In the home of another person	Federal Payment Level	State Supplement Payment Level	Combined Federal / State Payment Level
Individual	\$368.00	\$0.00	\$368.00
Individual with One Essential Person	665.00	\$0.00	665.00



**ELIGIBILITY A-Z**
**Standards**

Individual with an ineligible spouse	\$368.00	\$100.00	\$468.00
Couple	\$552.67	\$0.00	\$552.67
Couple with one essential person	\$665.00	\$0.00	\$665.00

**c. Residing in a medical institution: Area 1 and 2**

MEDICAL INSTITUTION	Federal Payment Level	State Supplement Payment Level	Combined Payment Level
Individual	\$30	\$11.62	\$41.62

Click on the Washington State Register (WSR) numbers below to go to the official filings for this WAC at the Washington State Code Reviser's web site.

**Current Version:** WSR 03-03-114, effective 2/23/03 - Rev. 254

**Previous Version:** WSR [02-14-080](#), effective June 28, 2002 (Emergency) ([Rev. 217](#))

**Previous Version:** WSR [01-24-015](#) effective 1/1/02 (Emergency) - [Rev. 173](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [01-19-024](#), effective 11/1/01 - Emergency basis on 6/28/01 under WSR [01-14-031](#) (to accommodate the affect on COLA of the Federal CPI error correction). (Ed. Note: This WAC amendment was not submitted for posting in the EA-Z Manual)

**Previous Version:** WSR [01-08-015](#), effective 5/1/01 - [Rev. 115](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [00-20-054](#), effective 11/1/00 - [Rev.109](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [00-11-130](#), effective 7/1/00 - Emergency basis on March 31, 2000, under WSR [00-08-059](#) - [Rev.85](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [99-18-063](#), effective 10/1/99 - [Rev. 43](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [99-04-103](#), effective 3/6/99 - Emergency basis on January 1, 1999, under [WSR 99-01-028](#). [Rev. 15](#)

**Previous Version:** WSR [98-16-044](#), effective 9/1/98 - Initial Distribution